

09/936542

JC16 Rec'd PCT/PTO SEP 10 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Reniero et al.  
Appl. No.: PCT/EP00/01798  
Filed: 2 March 2000  
Title: LACTOBACILLUS STRAINS CAPABLE OF PREVENTING DIARRHOEA  
CAUSED BY PATHOGENIC BACTERIA AND ROTAVIRUSES  
Art Unit: Unknown  
Examiner: Unknown  
Docket No.: 112843-032

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Please amend Claims 3-4 and 7-13 as follows:

3. (Once Amended) The Lactobacillus strain according to claim 1 which is capable of growing in the presence of up to 0.4 % bile salts.

4. (Once Amended) The Lactobacillus strain according to claim 1 which is selected from the group consisting of Lactobacillus rhamnosus and Lactobacillus paracasci.

7. (Once Amended) A method for preparing an ingestible support material comprising the step of using a lactic acid bacterium belonging to the genus Lactobacillus having the ability of preventing colonization of the intestine with pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea and of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

8. (Once Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein the Lactobacillus strain is contained in the ingestible support material in an amount from about  $10^5$  cfu / g to about  $10^{12}$  cfu / g support material.

9. (Once Amended) A method for preparing an ingestible support comprising the step of using a supernatant of a culture of a lactic acid bacterium belonging to the genus Lactobacillus having the ability of preventing colonization of the intestine with pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea and of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

10. (Once Amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the ingestible support material is a food composition selected from milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks,